

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR: COMMITTEE OF SEVEN

RECEIVES BATRES

1. THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN MET JUNE 24 AND HEARD A BRIEF TALK BY HONDURAN FOREIGN MINISTER BATRES, IN WHICH HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO THE HONDURAN PEOPLE THE FAILURE OF SUCCESSIVE EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE DISPUTE WITH EL SALVADOR. HE ASKED THE COMMITTEE FOR ADVICE ON WHAT TO DO NEXT.

2. SEVILLA SACASA OF NICARAGUA GAVE BATRES A ROUGH DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH HE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN HOPED THE GOVERNMENTS OF HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR WOULD SIGN IN THE NEAR FUTURE. (SEVILLA SACASA HAD PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED THE DRAFT AMONG COMMISSION MEMBERS AND OBTAINED THEIR CONSENT.) THE DRAFT WOULD PROVIDE FOR EARLY RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. UNDER THE DRAFT, NEGOTIATORS OF

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THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD DEAL SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH EIGHT

OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS (PEACE AND TREATIES; FREE TRANSIT; DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR RELATIONS; BORDER QUESTIONS; CACM; CLAIMS AND DIFFERENCES; HUMAN RIGHTS; AND OTHER). BOTH GOVERNMENTS WOULD QTE RECOGNIZE THAT BORDER QUESTIONS, BECAUSE OF THEIR IMPORTANCE, MERIT PREFERENTIAL ATTENTION UNQTE IN THE SIMULTANEOUS NEGOTIATIONS.

3. AFTER READING THE DOCUMENT, BATRES SAID THAT IT MERITED CAREFUL STUDY. HE MADE TWO OBSERVATIONS: THERE IS IN THE DRAFT NO REFERENCE TO THE VERY IMPORTANT ADVANCES ALREADY MADE, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS GUIDELINES. SECONDLY, THE DRAFT DOES NOT SEEM TO INDICATE TO THE TWO PARTIES WHERE THEY SHOULD START.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THESE CONCERNS, THE COMMITTEE SUGGESTED THE ADDITION OF CERTAIN QTE BASES UNQTE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WOULD REFLECT THE ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE.

5. SEVILLA SACASA TOLD BATRES THAT THE COMMITTEE EXPECTS TO RECEIVE THE SALVADORAN FOREIGN MINISTER SOON AND WILL SHOW HIM THE ROUGH DRAFT AT THAT TIME. MEANWHILE, HE ASKED BATRES TO KEEP THE DOCUMENT SECRET. HE ALSO TOLD BATRES THAT THE COMMITTEE HOPES TO RECEIVE THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS TOGETHER TO WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT FOR RESUMING TALKS ON THE BASIS OF THE DRAFT, SOMETIME AFTER BORGONOVO HAS REPORTED TO THE COMMITTEE.

6. COMMENT: WHILE BATRES DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF, HE SEEMED RECEPTIVE TO THE COMMITTEE'S INITIATIVE FOR GETTING NEGOTIATIONS GOING AGAIN. DESPITE SEVILLA SACASA'S OPTIMISM THAT BORGONOVO WILL APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE SOON, BORGONOVO HAS NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE RESPONDED TO THE INVITATION. EMBASSY SAN SALVADOR SHOULD NOT DISCUSS THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT UNTIL IT HAS BEEN FORMALLY PRESENTED BY THE COMMITTEE. SISCO

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